Private and foreign investments in education

3467. SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is going to abolish the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) and the University Grants Commission (UGC);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government is going to allow foreign investment and private investment in the field of higher as well primary education in the country; and

(d) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) The creation of an over-arching body to regulate higher and technical education by subsuming bodies like the All India Council for Technical Education, National Council for Teacher Education etc. and the University Grants Commission is a priority for the Government. No legislative proposal has been finalized.

(c) and (d) By virtue of Press Note 2 (2000 Series) dated the Eleventh February, 2000 of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government has allowed Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) upto 100% on the automatic route in the Education Sector. Government encourages private participation in the field of education, consistent with its policy of non-commercialisation of education.

Grants for Rajiv Gandhi Chair in Universities

3468. DR. E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has got the details of the universities which are having Rajiv Gandhi Chair and the amount spent so far;

(b) whether Government has got any proposal to give the chair to other universities, if any university is not taking initiative to fill the position and do the activities; and

(c) if so, whether Government would give the grant to the Rajiv Gandhi Chair established in Gandhigram Rural Institute, a Deemed University which has carried out the activities in Panchayati Raj for the past ten years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) According to information provided by the University Grants Commission (UGC), details of the amount spent by the ten universities where Rajiv Gandhi Chairs have been established is given in the enclosed Statement (*See* below).

(b) There is no such proposal under consideration.